

President
FLOYD W. LEE, San Mateo

Vice-Presidents:
E. L. Moulton, Albuquerque
John P. Cauhope, Roswell
Eugenio Perez, Vaughn
H. C. Abbott, Las Animas, Colo.

Secretary
BERTHA BENSON, Albuquerque

NEW MEXICO WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

BOX 617

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

November 5, 1929

EXECUTIVE BOARD

M. D. Atkinson, Corona
David Armijo, Albuquerque
C. A. Baker, Roswell
Frank Bond, Albuquerque
Col. Geo. E. Breece, Albuquerque
H. O. Bursum, Socorro
Franklin Bond, Jr., Albuquerque
R. K. Chambers, Clayton
Lee B. Corn, Roswell
Mart Corn, Jr., Roswell
W. S. Day, Buchanan
Geo. D. Farr, Magdalena
Narciso Frances, Seboyeta
T. F. Godding, Albuquerque
M. A. Gonzalez, Abiquiu
S. J. Howell, Encino
Hon. H. J. Hagerman, Santa Fe
C. C. Harbert, East Vaughn
Chas. Heather, Durango, Colo.
James L. Hubbell, Datil
Roman G. Hubbell, Albuquerque

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Fred D. Huning, Los Lunas
Louis Ilfeld, Albuquerque
A. E. Ingham, Roswell
L. P. James, Clayton
H. L. Kent, State College
A. Stewart MacArthur, Wagon Mound
Juan C. Martinez, D. S. Molina
Doroteo Martinez, Roy
J. H. McCarthy, Texas
Prager Miller, Roswell
Wm. R. Morley, Datil
B. C. Mossman, Roswell
Max Nordhaus, Albuquerque
Jose Ortiz y Pino, Galisteo
E. M. Otero, Los Lunas
M. B. Otero, El Paso, Texas
M. Paltenghe, Wagon Mound
Edw. Sargent, Chama
A. G. Seiz, Albuquerque
A. J. Sinc, Albuquerque
R. C. Werswick, Roswell

INTERIOR DEPT.
RECEIVED
NOV 9 - 1929
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Honorable Roy Lyman Wilbur,
The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

*5-1
Navajo's
Land Purchases*

*Entered in Com. Rhoads
Nov 14
EKB*

Dear Mr. Wilbur:

This will acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of October 28th with which you sent a memorandum prepared by Commissioner Rhoads of the Office of Indian Affairs and in your letter you asked for further comments.

First, regarding taxation of lands purchased by the United States in trust for the Navajo tribe. It is our understanding that these lands are purchased with tribal funds. The Secretary of the Interior has stated that he desires the Indians to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. We know of no better way to educate the Indian to assume such responsibilities than to have him become a tax payer. There is no question regarding the fact that the Navajo Indian is an asset as compared with all other tribes of Indians and for that reason, we believe, the Navajo people are worth helping in a manner that will place them on their own feet and have them assume some of the responsibilities of citizenship.

Second, grazing of sheep and cattle on the Navajo Reservation. We are glad to learn that plans are under way for range management along conservation lines. We hope that such a plan may be comprehensive and based on a scientific survey and not left to the individual Indian Superintendents. The past history of the reservation is that as rapidly as the grazing on a certain area has destroyed the forage, new areas are sought instead of endeavoring to improve the old and we hope that this may be corrected.

Third, the policy of allotting Navajo Indians on the Public Domain. Our objection was not directed at the allotment of Indians who have actually settled upon a tract of land, acquired and improved same, although in such cases, in line with your desire to establish the Indians as citizens, we would urge that Indians should be advised to file homesteads and acquire their lands in the same manner that any other settler would do. Our primary objection is to the policy being followed by officers of the Indian Department in constantly urging the Navajo Indian to file allotments on new lands and in this way, constantly extend their territory. Such action was urged upon the Indians by the Allotting Agent at the Navajo Council.

Commissioner Rhoads refers to the fact that nearly all of the Navajo Indians living off of the reservation are within the territory embraced in the Santa Fe land

-2-R.L.W.

grant. Many of our members are leasing from the railroad company the odd sections of land included within their grant. There are a large number of allotments upon which no Indian has settled or made improvements but at seasons of the year when the grass is good they drift across such lands as are leased by the stockmen, using their allotment in the township as an excuse for appropriating both the grass and the improved waters of the stockmen in that territory. This has resulted in a serious deterioration of the range and consequent erosion.

If the Public Domain in this area could be returned to the state and leased to the stockmen under state leases, they would be able to fence and protect their range because their leases with the state and railroad would enable them so to do. If the policy of allotting is constantly urged upon the Indian it will be impracticable to secure any protection even though the Public Domain in this area may be returned to the states.

You will appreciate that our protest is not directed at allotments which have been established for Indians who have settled and acquired possession by actual residence, but at the practice of urging the Indian to allot on new lands and file upon new allotments located many miles from the reservation which will be utilized as we have outlined above.

The undersigned resides within the area mentioned and is entirely familiar with the situation and we are urging that the practice of the Indian Department of importuning the Indians to reach out and secure by allotment every acre they can before the lands are returned to the states is wrong as the practice will be destructive of the object which you are desiring to accomplish.

As residents of Western New Mexico, a large number of our members are deeply interested in this situation and in the interest of conservation, we feel that the action which is being taken is not in accordance with the policy which you have outlined.

Thanking you for your kind consideration of our letter and resolution, we remain

Yours very truly,

NEW MEXICO WOOD GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

By

Floyd W. Lee
President